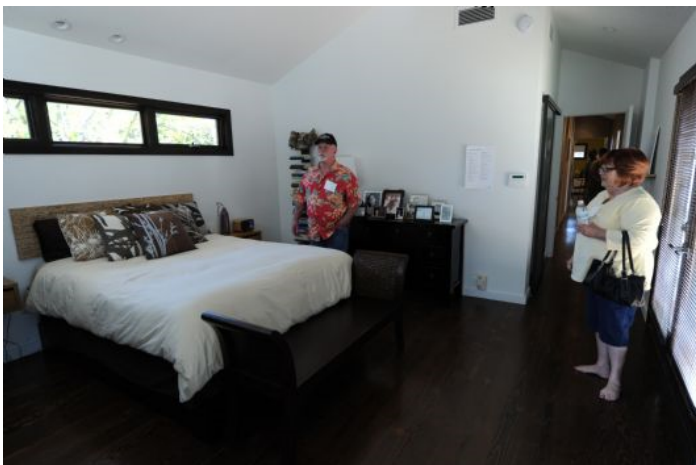




## Valley man wins energy package in contest

By Susan Abram, Staff Writer  
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A San Fernando man won \$50,000 worth of efficiency upgrades to his home as part of a Los Angeles County-wide program that helps homeowners lower their utility costs.

Albert Gerardo received the upgrade package after entering his home in an energy makeover contest launched in March by the Los Angeles County Office of Sustainability.

Gerardo's home will receive several kinds of upgrades, including the grand prize of solar panels.

Five other residents from all over Los Angeles County, including one in Encino, received \$10,000 worth of upgrades that include energy-efficient windows, tankless water heaters and other improvements.

Residents in Los Angeles County are encouraged to apply to the Energy Upgrade California program, an energy efficiency effort that works in collaboration with several state and federal agencies.

"Implementing Energy Upgrade California in Los Angeles County will help homeowners enhance their property values while cutting energy bills and energy consumption," said Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky said in a statement. "We hope ... that eligible County residents will take advantage of the rebates and incentives to make their homes more energy efficient."

The contest is over, but residents can apply to



<http://www.EnergyUpgradeCA.org> to see if their home qualifies for rebates and incentives. Residents must agree that the work be done by participating contractors specially trained in energy efficiency upgrades.

The county's goal is to retrofit up to 18,000 homes in the next two years, and to reduce an average 20 percentage in energy use.

Residents also can call 877-785-2237 for more information.



